

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by justly limiting the market power of gargantuan companies in the broadcast industry.

Even in this age of the internet and global media reach, there are still regional and local differences that must be addressed by our sources of media, which is why I believe the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules.

The people of Philadelphia, or Duluth, or Fort Worth, are all different, and have different media needs, than do the people in my home city of Seattle, and those needs should be met by independent media outlets.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest. To that end, I believe it is imperative that the FCC hold additional public hearings in cities across the nation to discuss these proposed rules. After all, the airwaves belong to the PUBLIC, and as such, deserve to have PUBLIC input into how they will be allocated.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sean Pender